

Twenty-five years after Dallas: The

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legacy of John Kennedy lives on



The mystery has still not been solved

THE PUBLIC has had difficulty accepting the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, unaided, assassinated Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas. Oswald himself was slain two days after the assassination by Jack Ruby. Conspiracy finds a believing audience.

Conspiracy theorists dismiss the Warren Commission's finding, yet by and large they base their own theories on the very same 26-volume Warren Report. Mark Lane may be the best-known critic of the commission. In his book *Rush to Judgment*, Lane tries to undermine the testimony of Harold Norman, who was an order-filler at the Texas School Book Depository, as was Oswald. The commission concluded that Oswald fired three shots at the president's motorcade from the sixth floor of the Depository. Norman was one floor down watching the motorcade with two co-workers.

"Although the three men withdrew from their position at the windows into the quiet of the deserted fifth floor, they were unable to detect any sound of movement above," Lane writes. "Yet Norman claimed that while he was still at the window he was able to hear the action of a rifle bolt and the sound of empty shells hitting the floor above."

A favourite sniper's nest among conspiracy theorists is the "grassy knoll" area. The motorcade was approaching it when Kennedy was shot. If there were another rifleman there as well as Oswald to the rear in the Depository, the plot must thicken.

Over the years various theories have claimed that Oswald and Ruby

were homosexual lovers and plotters, or that Oswald was a tool of the KGB or that Ruby was a hit man for a conspiracy.

A NEW BOOK suggests that when Oswald shot the presidential motorcade his target may not have been President Kennedy at all but rather Texas Governor John Connally. Excerpts from *The Great Expectations of John Connally*, by James Reston, Jr., to be published next year, were printed in *Time* magazine on Sunday.

Connally, who rode in the limousine with Kennedy, was wounded in the rifle attack.

Reston recounts Oswald's stay in the Soviet Union, where his actions prompted the U.S. Marine corps to downgrade his discharge from honorable to undesirable. Crushed, Oswald petitioned Connally to influence the Marines. He believed that Connally was Secretary of the Navy but the Texan had left the post six weeks earlier and his office sent Oswald a perfunctory reply.

Reston wrote: "To Oswald, Connally was the U.S. Government, and its unfair action fortified his bitterness."

Reviewing testimony given to the Warren Commission probing the assassination, Reston found some witnesses who had said that Oswald had a clear grudge against Connally but no obvious signs of enmity towards Kennedy.

Reston also includes a witness's account of a conversation between a man believed to be Oswald and Jack Ruby, who later killed Oswald. The subject was killing Connally.

(AP, Reuter)